

Wisconsin Farm to School

Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection

December 2, 2014

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General Updates

Have you Hosted a Try-Day Friday?





Try-Days offer both children and school staff the chance to try new foods in a fun and supportive environment.

The **Objective**: To encourage favorable attitudes among students about unfamiliar fruits, vegetables, whole grains, and low-fat dairy items. Try-Day is a recurring event during which students sample new healthy food options such as kale, butternut squash, or quinoa. On each Try-Day, students and staff sample a food and indicate how much they like or dislike it, using the Try-Day Ballot (page 81) or other scoring method.

Hand out “I tried it” stickers to encourage students to taste-test new items. Classrooms that collect the most stickers for the month can be recognized by the principal and receive a nonfood reward. Foods that are a hit can then be incorporated into the school menu.

To distribute food samples, some schools offer students small cups of new foods on the serving line as students get their lunches.



Rockville Elementary School in Rockville, IN, set up tasting tables in the cafeteria as an alternative. Consider inviting students to visit a tasting table one group at a time, to allow for greater participation and crowd control. If you do not have room for a table, consider having student, parent, or teacher volunteers bring samples to the students on a tray or cart.

Another option is to hold a taste-testing in the classroom as part of a lesson. Food samples may be prepared by the cafeteria and brought to the classroom by parent volunteers for sampling. Check out the Try-Day Fridays booklet [HERE](#).



Nominate a Farm to Preschool program for a Let's Move Child Care Award!

Let's Move! Child Care (LMCC) is excited to announce a call for nominations for child care and early education centers and homes who are participating in the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) and primarily serve children 0-5 years of age; CACFP sponsoring agencies; and State CACFP agencies who are making outstanding efforts to improve child nutrition programs that promote young children's health and prevent childhood obesity. The top nominees and their efforts will be recognized and showcased at an LMCC Recognition Event at the 2015 National CACFP Sponsors Association Conference in Las Vegas, Nevada. To make a nomination for this special recognition and see the selection criteria, go to: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/2015LMCCNomination>

Tools and Resources

[Healthy Foods Among Rural, Family-Based Childcare Providers](#)

Tomorrow's Table, recently prepared this document for the Center for Prevention at Blue Cross & Blue Shield of Minnesota. It explores access to healthy foods among rural, family-based childcare providers and strategies from around the country for improving it.

[Grassroots Guide to Federal Farm and Food Programs](#)

This is the resource guide (Formerly the Grassroots Guide to the 2008 Farm Bill) that the National Sustainable Agriculture Coalition (NSAC) develops after each farm bill cycle, though this new edition has been expanded a bit beyond strictly farm bill programs. It offers plain-language explanations of the dozens of federal programs and policies most important to sustainable agriculture and information on how farmers, ranchers, and grassroots organizations nationwide can access them.

Webinars, Conferences and Events



NFSN Upcoming Webinar

[Building Community Capacity: Local, regional and national collaborations for farm to school](#)

Tuesday, December 9, 2014 1:00 PM - 1:20 PM EST
How can collaborative networks and innovative partnerships support farm to school? And how can communities build those partnerships and networks? On this webinar we will hear from three panelists offering a statewide, regional and national perspective on this issue. [Register here!](#)

USDA-AMS webinars

How to Use Fruit and Vegetable Market News

December 18, 2014

2:00 pm Eastern Time

If you miss a webinar, just visit our [Webinar Archive](#) to watch it or any other AMS Series offering online.



The Wisconsin School for Beginning Market Growers

The Wisconsin School for Beginning Market Growers, a three-day workshop for anyone planning to start a fresh market vegetable farm, will be offered January 9-11, 2015 on the UW-Madison campus. The program, now in its 17th year, serves new and beginning farmers seeking to grow and market fresh produce. The focus of the program is to provide information and inspiration to help new growers make smart business decisions about production, marketing, pricing, capitalization and labor. This is accomplished by having a team of experienced growers do the majority of the teaching.

The program emphasizes organic production methods and direct marketing. Participants will learn about fertility management, greenhouse use, season

extension, pest management, equipment needs and will get real-world perspectives on the financial and quality-of-life realities of running a small scale farm.

The School for Beginning Market Growers is sponsored by the UW-Madison Center for Integrated Agricultural Systems. Registration for the program costs \$325. Enrollment is limited, so early sign-ups are advised. For more information, contact John Hendrickson at (608) 265-3704 or jhendric@wisc.edu, or visit the CIAS web site: www.cias.wisc.edu

[Click here for online registration.](#)

Farm to School Funding Opportunities

Applications Invited for Terri Lynne Lokoff/Children's Tylenol National Child Care Teacher Awards

DEADLINE: DECEMBER 8, 2014

Fifty pre-K teachers will be selected to receive grants of \$1,000 in honor of their dedication to providing high-quality child care.

Farm to School Job Openings

Women, Land and Legacy Coordinator (Iowa)

The Women, Land and Legacy (WLL) State Team initiated WLL in 2004 as an outreach project to develop local networks of agricultural and rural women. Together, they decidewhat projects and information they need for making decisions about their farms, businesses and conservation stewardship. Through small-group dialogue and a focused conservation process used by WLL, Iowa women assess their strengths and needs at a local level and identify specific meetings, trainings and other strategies that would serve their specific needs.

The Women, Food and Agriculture Network (WFAN) seeks a part-time coordinator to further WLL outreach, under advisement by the WLL State Team. More information on WLL can be found at: www.womenlandandlegacy.org.

Farm to School Media Mentions

Wisconsin Ag Connection

[DATCP Unveils Mobile-Friendly Interactive Farm to School Map](#)

*Please contact Sarah Elliott at sarah.elliott@wisconsin.gov to find out how to make sure your school district is counted!

FOR MORE INFORMATION, contact DATCP's Sarah Elliott at 608-224-5046 or sarah.elliott@wisconsin.gov.